



# AETC News Clips

## Laughlin AFB, Texas



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### Laughlin offers students a waiting pool

[By Bill Sontag](#)

Published December 12, 2005, p. 1

For several months, a Del Rio physician has urged Air Force brass to consider a proposal to better utilize the Laughlin Air Force Base's splendid new Losano Fitness Center. And once again, the Air Force and 47th Flying Training Wing leadership have come through with a material gesture of cooperation and support of the gateway community that serves the installation.

The massive, high tech physical fitness center, named after Raymond Losano, a student of Del Rio schools killed in combat in Afghanistan, includes a sparkling, colorful swimming pool. The 25-meter, Olympic-size pool, ranging in depth from four to five feet, is neatly divided into six lap lanes for personal training and competition.

Dr. Shamoon Doctor, Del Rio urologist, became aware of the absence of competitive swimming and training at Del Rio High School when his water-loving daughter, Shaleen, 17, found neither a place to practice nor any teammates with whom to train.

Laughlin's old fitness center partially answered the need for the determined, competitive young woman, but coaching and competition were 160 miles away in San Antonio. So the Doctor family has made dozens of trips to the Alamo City during Shaleen's high school tenure here.

Knowing that a successful effort to get Pentagon-level clearance for a Del Rio High School swim team would come too late for his own daughter, Doctor nevertheless persisted in trying to create what he saw as an important opportunity for future Del Rio naiads.

For three years Doctor made repeated entreaties to the Board of Trustees of the San Felipe Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District to formally request base access to the pool and to create a team. Finally, the request was tendered, and forwarded to the Pentagon for consideration.

On Nov. 22, Col. Tod D. Wolters, commander of the 47th Flying Training Wing, delivered the good news on behalf of the Air Force part of the bargain in a letter to SFDRICISD Superintendent Roberto "Bobby" Fernandez.

"I am pleased to advise that your request to use our base fitness center pool for the high school swim team to practice has been approved by our Air Force Services Director," Wolters wrote.

The agreement must be renewed every two years, and the team's use must be scheduled during "off-peak" hours, according to Wolters. "I wish your team success in their endeavor for athletic excellence," Wolters wrote.

Now all the school needs is a team, a coach and a little equipment. Dr. Antonio Cadena, Board of Trustees president, told Doctor last week that the matter will be placed on the board agenda for tonight's regularly scheduled meeting, expressing confidence that the project will now move forward.

"I don't think the high school has ever had a swim team, and I think Shaleen's the first to compete in UIL [University Interscholastic League competition]," Doctor said Thursday.

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Though Shaleen Doctor won't be participating on a Del Rio High School swim team (she will graduate this year), she and her father are both pleased that the project seems to be coming to fruition.

"I'm really happy that they're allowing the swim team on base, and I really don't mind that I won't get to swim on a team. I'm just glad that other kids will be able to do it," Shaleen said Sunday afternoon.

"I think once they have a swim team at the school, they'll have no trouble finding kids to be on it," Doctor said.

Shaleen agrees with her dad. "There's a lot of kids who want to. I've had a lot of kids ask if there will be a swim team, a lot of them seniors who hoped to be on it before they graduated. I've even had parents calling, saying they want to be on a swim team," Shaleen said.

Carly Williams, a 2000 graduate of Del Rio High School and now a lifeguard at the Losano Fitness Center pool, agreed Saturday with Doctor's prediction.

"If they had a swim team when I was in high school, I'd have been on it," she said. Williams looks forward to the advent of DRHS swim training under her watchful eye at Laughlin.

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# AETC News Clips

## Little Rock AFB, Ark.



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### **Air Force to cut 3,000 officers**

By SARA GREENE, North Pulaski Leader, Jacksonville Ark. (published Dec 10)

*IN SHORT: About 40 Air Force lieutenants face changing careers or leaving as part of force shaping.*

With too many officers and not enough enlisted, the Air Force is force-shaping by eliminating more than 3,000 lieutenants in 16 job fields that will affect about 40 officers at Little Rock Air Force Base. Lieutenants affected by the change were notified by the Air Force on Dec. 5.

"We've looked very hard at our force," said Maj. Gen. Anthony F. Pryzbyslawski, commander of the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base in Texas. Pryzbyslawski was at Little Rock Air Force Base Friday for an award ceremony and retiree luncheon.

"It became fiscally irresponsible with too many people. We have too few enlisted and too many officers," Pryzbyslawski said.

The job fields affected by the changes include airfield operations, intelligence, weather, aircraft maintenance, missile programs, logistics readiness, security forces, communication and information, services, public affairs, manpower and personnel, scientists, acquisition management, contracting, finance and special investigator. Some lieutenants are hoping to switch jobs in order to stay in the Air Force.

Lt. Jon Quinlan, deputy chief of public affairs for the 314 th Airlift Wing Public Affairs is among the officers at Little Rock Air Force Base affected by force-shaping.

"I've put in a package to train as a navigator," Quinlan said. "If I'm not picked as a navigator, I would go before the selection board in April and hope my record allows me to stay in."

Lieutenants selected for separation can apply to transfer to the Army, Air National Guard or Air Force Reserve, but there is no guarantee of transfer approval. Lieutenants will go before an involuntary separation board in April where it will be decided if they will be forced out or allowed to stay in the Air Force.

According to the Air Force Times, force-shaping will move the Air Force closer to its authorized troop strength of 359,700 and save the military about \$200 million. Initially, the force-shaping goal targeted 3,900 officers and 13,700 enlisted for separation.

More personnel reductions could be on the horizon as the Pentagon cuts budget costs by reducing personnel in order to keep weapon systems.

According to the New York Times, the Pentagon is planning \$32 billion in budget cuts for 2007. Currently, military spending is between \$400 and \$500 billion a year, a growth of 41 percent since 2001.

The Pentagon has about \$1.3 trillion in weapon systems in some stage of development, with over \$800 billion of those costs yet to be paid such as the F/A-22 Raptor Air Force fighter jet or the V-22 Osprey aircraft for the Marines and are still not ready for combat.

The F/A-22 was ordered up in the early 1980s to fight Soviet Union jets. The Air Force initially planned to buy 648 F/A-22s, at a cost of \$125 million each, measured in current dollars, but it can now afford only 181 jets, now priced at \$361 million each.

The Pentagon still plans to spend \$2.3 trillion from 2006 to 2011.

*North Pulaski Leader*

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## Luke AFB, Ariz.



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### LIFE AT LUKE

#### NOTES

#### Internet access provider helping deployed troops

Resolute Partners LLC, a leading provider of public Internet access and online gaming to U.S. military bases worldwide, is offering a way to add deployed troops to holiday shopping lists and provide them with a way to stay connected with family, friends and loved ones.

The public can purchase gift cards for troops to use at nine CZee CyberZones Internet cafés in Kuwait. Resolute Partners is waiving a member fee and is providing shipping and card distribution free of charge.

CZee CyberZones are premium broadband Internet and recreational computing centers offering servicemen and -women a way to unwind during off-duty hours. Popular activities include online and LAN gaming, browsing the Web, sending e-mail and using instant messaging with Web cams to stay in touch with friends and family.

CZee CyberZones are located at Army and Air Force Exchange Service locations and recreation facilities on U.S. military bases, including Luke Air Force Base, and installations around the world.

To purchase CZee CyberZone holiday gift cards, log on to [www.cyberzonegifts.com](http://www.cyberzonegifts.com). Contributions can be made for any amount over \$5 through the Web site. These contributions will then be delivered to the troops in the form of \$5 CZee CyberZone holiday gift cards, with each card providing one hour of time.

*The Arizona Republic*

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### Procurement Fair set for Jan. 24 at arena

The West Valley and Luke Air Force Base Procurement Fair is a biannual event jointly sponsored by the West Valley Chamber of Commerce and Luke. The event is scheduled for 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Jan. 24 at the Glendale Arena. The goal of this year's event, "Mastering the Purchasing Maze V," is to promote small, minority- and women-owned business to do business with the local and federal governments.

The fair will feature tables manned with buyers, as well as panel workshops where buyers will discuss understanding the government purchasing process and successful sales techniques.

For more information, visit [www.glendaleaz.com/PurchasingFair](http://www.glendaleaz.com/PurchasingFair).

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## Can Rimsza end ex-mayors' jinx?

*Political Insider is a tongue-in-cheek look at the past week in Arizona politics.*

We have real breaking news to report this week - not the usual knuckleheaded shenanigans we deliver.

The man who helped bring light rail and helped revitalize Phoenix's dreadfully dull downtown has decided to run for the state's second-highest office. And no, we're not talking about **Jerry Colangelo**.

Dusting off the political rust from two years out of the limelight, former Phoenix Mayor Skip "Retirement from Politics is Boring" Rimsza is gunning to be Arizona's next secretary of state. Oh, did we mention that office is currently held by fellow Republican **Jan Brewer**? The feisty Brewer is not likely to take this news sitting down. This predicted snorefest could now be the most entertaining race of the season.

Nonetheless, Rimsza said the office should be more than counting ballots and monitoring elections. Here's what Rimsza, 50, told the Insider about his campaign plans:

"There is a huge opportunity for the secretary of state to do more than just handle elections," he said. "I think that person should be a great facilitator for rural economic development and help focus on statewide transportation issues. Some of the statewide transportation issues are getting a little bit of a lost focus."

Rimsza, who had no trouble raising private funds for his two mayoral runs, said he'll run as a publicly funded candidate "so he won't be beholden to anyone." It could be tough knocking off a Republican stalwart and darling of hard-core primary-voting conservatives with less than \$100,000. So is this a quixotic endeavor or what? Well, not exactly. Capitol railbirds speculate that if Rimsza can pull off a miracle in 2006, he is set up as a top contender heading into the 2010 governor's race.

Rimsza is undaunted in his uphill battle. We'll give him one thing, he's confident.

"Light rail, desert preservation, protecting **Luke Air Force Base**," Rimsza rattled off his accomplishments. "We made it happen."

Wonder if Rimsza knows the abysmal records of former Phoenix mayors who have run statewide. Let's see: **Terry Goddard**: Lost two races for governor before winning an AG's race in 2002. **Paul Johnson**: Lost two governor's races. Of course, both of those chaps are Democrats, but Rimsza will face a daunting task in winning over the hard-core GOP primary voters who usually favor the candidate with street cred on socially conservative issues.

And let's not forget the most daunting statistic of all: No female statewide candidate in Arizona history has ever lost a bid for re-election.

Expect an official announcement from Hizzoner in January.

*The Arizona Republic*  
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# AETC News Clips

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### **Commissioners grant groups \$20,000 apiece**

**BCI, military committee to use funds to develop, promote county**

**By Robert Morgan/Times Record News  
December 13, 2005, Page 1A**

Two organizations focused on the economic development of Wichita County received \$20,000 apiece Monday from the Wichita County Commissioners.

The Wichita Falls Board of Commerce & Industry and the Sheppard Military Affairs Committee both received funds from county coffers for activities deemed beneficial to economic growth in the county.

After this first year of funding, the Sheppard Military Affairs Committee and the BCI plan to ask Wichita County and other financial contributors to fund the organization's individual initiatives over the next four years.

About the approved funds' use, County Judge Woody Gossom said, "The retention and promotion to secure economic being are imperative" to the county's future.

The BCI's share of the funding will go toward implementing a new regional marketing plan for attracting primary industries - manufacturing companies that build on a city's economic base. Tim Chase, BCI president, said.

"In order to promote the community ... we need to change the way in which we market," he said.

This latest marketing method means reaching out to new audiences using new methods, Chase said.

The BCI has received \$100,000 from the 4A sales tax fund, Chase said, and is waiting to hear back from the Burk Development Corporation. In addition, he said the BCI would attempt to get funds from the private sector.

Sheppard MAC, a newly formed organization, will use its portion of county funds to hire an executive director. The need for the position and the organization stems from the aftermath of the federal Base Realignment and Closure procedure that absorbed 2,300 base jobs.

Darrell Coleman, who serves as vice chairman of the Shepard MAC for the BCI, said the recent job losses served as "wake-up call" for Wichita County.

The lack of an organized effort during BRAC put the county at a competitive disadvantage compared to other communities, Coleman said.

Sheppard MAC's focus will be to "coordinate the area's resources to evaluate, package and deliver solutions that will maintain and improve Sheppard AFB's military value," a Sheppard MAC memo stated.

Like Coleman, Commissioner Pat Norris, Precinct 2, said Wichita County was caught off guard by the BRAC process.

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She said the formation of Sheppard MAC would help "strengthen our efforts" to protect Sheppard.

"This is an ongoing effort to maintain what we have," Norris said.

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### **Thornberry focuses talk on big issues**

**Rep.'s speech highlights Iraq, budget, Sheppard**

**By Jessica Langdon/Times Record News  
December 13, 2005, Page 1A**

A lot of progress has been made in Iraq, Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Clarendon, said, just a few days before elections in that nation determine its new government. The problem he sees is that mainly news of the troubles - and not as often the triumphs - tends to reach America.

Recent polls show Americans support an international war on terror but do not approve of the situation in Iraq.

"Many of us, from the president, down to me, have not done as good a job as we should in pointing out how Iraq is a part of the war on terror," Thornberry said Monday during a visit to the 13th Congressional District.

He shared his thoughts on events overseas and on the home front. He touched on the situation in Iraq, budget issues in the United States and efforts to keep Sheppard Air Force Base and the North Texas economy thriving, despite Base Realignment and Closure cuts and industrial worries.

Troops returning from tours overseas do not tend to echo many Americans' worries about the war in Iraq, Thornberry said.

The most sensational events of the day - such as a bombing of a police headquarters - make the news, he said, and the large parts of Mosul that are doing well go largely unseen.

"The soldiers on the ground see those things happening every day," Thornberry said.

He said the administration has not done as well as it should in telling Americans exactly what the situation is overseas - both good and bad.

People want to hear the whole story, he said, but admitted the United States has heard a lot of "slogans" and "talking points," instead.

"It's harder to talk about the good things credibly if you've just been using slogans or talking points," he said.

As for an end to the United States' presence in Iraq, Thornberry said there shouldn't be a target date.

"We'll be able to withdraw troops when the conditions permit," he said. Trends are moving toward more Iraqi forces taking over much of the day-to-day work, he said.

However, he warned the war on terror would be a long one.

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"We are an impatient people," he said, adding that can be a strength. However, "We cannot let our impatience leave this war half done."

He told a group of high school students in Wichita Falls Monday this war won't be like World War II, with a clear end to fighting, the return of the troops and a return to normal life.

### **Budget Worries**

A bill - one that includes budget cuts affecting programs such as Medicaid and food stamps - passed the House in November.

It put nerves on edge nationwide, with news articles highlighting the concerns, especially as the threat of high heating costs loomed over the winter months.

Thornberry said if the proposed changes become law, the difference across all the programs involved would be "1/10th of one percent, spread out over five years."

It's not an attack on the poor by any means, he stressed.

"We're trying to make these programs work better for the people they were implemented to help."

For example, the changes would be designed to help those who really rely on student loans, food stamps and Medicaid.

### **Economy**

Thornberry acknowledged the BRAC cuts have an impact on Sheppard and said the issue is still an important one.

"We are working with the Air Force about bringing new missions to Sheppard to fill in for those missions that have been moved to San Antonio," he said.

Meanwhile, this month brought rallies in Wichita Falls in anticipation of cutbacks on wages and benefits to employees of recently bankrupt Delphi, a previous Times Record News article reported. United Auto Workers expected a major impact on the Wichita Falls area if the company's cutbacks happen.

Thornberry spoke of keeping industrial opportunities coming to an area. He said keeping industry healthy depends on national, state and local efforts and said the key is having an economy where people are encouraged to create jobs.

"Taxes matter, regulations matter, legal reform matters, access to energy matters," he said.

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